

# The Otterbein Home Church

A HISTORY  
1913-1968



Phillippi  
Chapel



THE OTTERBEIN HOME CHURCH

1913-1968

Researched and Written  
1967-68

by

Mrs. Opha W. Ireland  
(Member of Otterbein Home)

While the first minutes of the Official Board of the Otterbein Home church are dated June 21, 1914, a Sunday School was already in existence. It had been organized in July 1913, less than three months after the first members were admitted to Otterbein Home. By the time the church was organized the following June, the Sunday School enrollment had grown to 95.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Otterbein Home had discussed the establishment of a church, particularly with reference to pastoral oversight, according to their report of May 27, 1914, about a month before the church was actually formed.

At this first Official Board meeting, Dr. J. R. King, superintendent of the Home, presided. Also present were George P. Sinclair who acted as secretary Mrs. Harris, steward; Mrs. Mary Mudge, Sunday School treasurer; P. Tillman, church treasurer; Silas Nicholas, Sunday School superintendent.

These names appear over and over in minutes of succeeding minutes. Mr. Sinclair served as secretary from June 21, 1914 to September 22, 1924. He was also class leader, financial secretary, and several times was delegate to annual conference.

In addition he was secretary of the Quarterly Conference, which in those days met every three months with the Conference superintendent to receive summary reports of church progress.

Mr. Sinclair and his wife had come to the Home November 4, 1913 from Lake City, Iowa. He was the bee keeper for the Home, and provided a great deal of honey for the tables. His picture with some of his beehives appears in the early Annuals published by the Home to publicize its needs.

Mr. Sinclair's minutes of Official Board and Quarterly Conference meetings are models of neatness and clarity. His handwriting shows none of the flourishes that were the style in those days. One gets the impression that he was an unusually good recorder, with a real sense of history.

As age required him to be less active he was made class leader emeritus on August 23, 1938. He remained vitally interested in the church as long as he lived.

At that first Official Board meeting it was decided that the church should begin at once to take weekly collections. At the next meeting it was decided to try to raise \$50 by the end of the year.

Two-fifths of this would be used for local expenses and three-fifths for "budget." This word "budget" is used in all the early records to represent quotas assigned the church by denominational headquarters. Local expenses were otherwise designated.

As a beginning, 300 offering envelopes were ordered, and the bill of \$1.50 was ordered paid at a later meeting. A church record book was purchased for \$2.00. This is a well bound book with substantial pages. A financial record book was also purchased for \$1.50.

Services were held each Sunday in the large living room on the second floor of the Center Brick (now New Bethany). Several times over the years, items appear in the minutes concerning purchase of chairs for this room. Pictures in the old Annuals show wooden chairs with high straight backs, such as were often used around kitchen dining tables in that era.

When the new school building (now the Nursing Care Center) was being planned the church voted to purchase seats for the auditorium, which was to be used for the church services. The limit on this expense was set at \$1500. When the building was finished in 1921, services were transferred to the school auditorium. Then in



1935 Phillippi building was completed, including a new chapel, and services have been held there ever since.

### Church Reached Out to Community

That it was the thought that the Otterbein Home church should serve the community as well as members of the Home is indicated in several instances. In his report to the Board of Trustees, dated August 20, 1914, Dr. King said: "The privileges of the preaching service are enjoyed by the community, as evidenced by the numbers who attend each week. In June of this year we organized a church with 24 members, under the direction of the superintendent of Miami Conference. Three have joined since, and a few others have their letters and will join next Sunday. This little church has contributed \$56 to the general and conference benevolent budget, and has a comfortable balance for current running expense."

In a report to the Board of Trustees on April 26, 1917, Dr. King made this comment: "Our church organization continues to be appreciated by the community, and we believe we have a mission in this way to the neighborhood." In a report of October 22, 1923, Rev. C. W. Snyder, then pastor, mentioned having made 20 calls during which he found several children in

the neighborhood not attending any Sunday School.

Dr. and Mrs. King

Dr. King served as pastor six years, 1914-1919 inclusive. He received no extra compensation as pastor; his salary as superintendent was \$1200 per year for the first few years. In the first Annual published by the Home in 1915, there is this comment: "While the superintendent is at present the pastor they (the Home members) get to hear many of our leading ministers preach, because ministers visiting the Home over Sunday are asked to fill the pulpit. Being near Dayton, Ohio, general Church officers and others, upon invitation, preach for our congregation."

As superintendent of the Home, Dr. King carried a heavy burden in managing the farm, and a multitude of other duties including field trips to interview prospective members, and efforts to raise money. The Home was constantly short of money, and constantly in receipt of urgent requests for admittance of both children and aged. Mrs. King acted as matron, and did all the accounting for the Home and farm, at a salary about half that of her husband.



Dr. and Mrs. King had been missionaries in Africa. They came as superintendent and matron at the pressing invitation of the Board of Trustees, and remained until April 1926. Thereafter they lived in Westerville, Ohio, where they maintained a dormitory for boys. Dr. King died in 1938 and Mrs. King in 1955.

### Rev. Hendrix Comes

At the 1920 annual Miami Conference, Rev. J. P. Hendrix was assigned to Otterbein Home church. He remained through 1922. The Official Board voted September 6, 1920 to pay him \$35 per month salary. This was increased to \$40 per month the next year. He was both principal of the Otterbein Home school and pastor of the church.

Rev. Hendrix is now retired, living at Fletcher, Ohio, where he was formerly pastor for 11 years. He returned to Otterbein Home in April 1962 to conduct a week of pre-Easter services in our chapel. At that time he lived at Lewisburg, Ohio

Rev. Hendrix led a busy life at the Home. Besides teaching and preaching, he coached athletic teams. The basketball team won the county championship. He also led the children's band, and played bass drum in it. This band played at Memorial Day services at Middletown, and once gave

a concert in Memorial Hall, Dayton.

On Sunday evenings, after conducting Christian Endeavor in the chapel (in the Center Brick) Rev. Hendrix would walk to Good Samaritan building to conduct services, as the building was too far away for those residents to come to the chapel.

Rev. Hendrix had no automobile. It was nothing unusual for him to walk to Lebanon on business. He sometimes walked to Franklin to take an interurban into Dayton, then walked home from Franklin. He and his wife and two infant sons lived at different times in the house just south of Marble Hall, known in later years as Rose Cottage, and in what had been the Shaker meeting house, which had been used as a school.

Rev. Hendrix reported 68 consecrations in revival meetings held early in 1921. In December that year he reported 157 church members. The Sunday School Secretary reported enrollment of 250 with an average attendance of 190, and average collection of \$2.00 from 15 classes. That year the church roll was revised. Persons who did not wish to transfer membership from their home churches were put on an associate membership list.

## Prayer Meetings

Prayer meetings had been held regularly since formation of the church. After the Old Peoples' Home (Bethany) was opened in April 1916 the prayer meetings were held in the living room there until the building was abandoned in August 1965. The class leader reported in May 1920 that the prayer meetings were in "fair condition," but in October that year he reported 30% increase in attendance. This seems to have been attributed, at least in part, to a change from Sunday evenings to Wednesday evenings, and from the chapel to the Old Peoples' Home.

Since 1964, when the building successively called the Center Brick, the Boys' Building and now New Bethany, was remodeled, the Fellowship Room on the ground floor has been available for prayer meetings, and is now used regularly.

A chapel which seats only 12 persons is near the Fellowship room. It is used by individuals and small prayer groups. Draperies and worship center were prepared by the W.S.W.S.

## Church on Springboro Circuit

During 1920 and for a few years

thereafter, the Otterbein Home church was on the Springboro circuit. Rev. A. R. Clippinger (brother of Miss Florence Clippinger, now a member of the Home) was Conference superintendent. (Later he was Bishop). Springboro, Utica, Moore's Fork and Oregonia churches were linked. There was an oversight in 1920 when Rev. Clippinger failed to appoint a pastor for Springboro and Utica, and Dr. King served those churches as pastor that year.

On September 19, 1922 it was voted to investigate the status of the Board of Trustees of Utica church. An associate pastor from Otterbein Home, A. D. Smith, was appointed to take charge at Utica. He reported Utica a promising field. His salary was \$200.

The Official Board (later called the Council of Administration and now known as Local Conference) sometimes had long discussions as to how the pastor's salary and other expenses could be met.

Although the Otterbein Home church and the Otterbein Home itself are two distinct organizations, they have traditionally helped each other. While Otterbein Home church was on the Springboro circuit, it seems that the other churches contributed toward the pastor's salary.



By 1938 there was a definite movement to have Moore's Fork dropped from the charge. "It breaks into our work to have the pastor go to Utica, and Otterbein Home should be a full time pastorate," says a report of August 31, 1938. It was agreed that Utica should meet with the then Conference superintendent, Dr. L.M.Hohn, and decide its own course of action. Otterbein Home church wanted all of Rev. E. C. Petry's time.

The previous year (1937) an agreement had been reached that Moore's Fork and Utica should each pay its share of the pastor's moving expense, according to the proportion of salary each paid.

At the meeting where the matter of making Otterbein Home church a full time pastorate was discussed, Rev. C.E. Traylor, superintendent of the Home, stated that he thought the Otterbein Home Board would pay as much of the pastor's salary next year as they had paid this (1938) but not any more.

There is no definite statement in the record as to just when the separation of the churches took place, but Otterbein Home did become a full time pastorate. Rev. Petry served only a comparatively short time, however, as he died while pastor of the Otterbein Home church. His widow,

Mrs. Stella Petry, lived out her life here. She taught music to the children of the Home, and was church pianist for many years.

### Church Finances

Pastor's salary gradually increased over the years from the \$35 per month paid to Rev. Hendrix (at such times as the church had enough money to pay him) to \$5700 per year in 1967.

This \$5700 represented an increase of \$700 cash, approximately the value of produce formerly given the pastor by the Home. This produce allowance was discontinued. He still has the privilege of purchasing groceries from the Home store, which gives him an advantage as to price on some items.

In recent years there has been an agreement with the Home trustees that the church treasurer may be allowed up to \$100 per month to help with salary and other expenses. During 1967 it was not necessary to ask for this allowance, as the church was self-sustaining. The previous year it had been necessary to ask for it only about half of the time.

The Home furnishes the parsonage and pays utilities, the telephone basic charge, and such long distance tolls as are neces-



sary for transacting church business.

In 1967 the church also paid, in addition to cash salary, the assessment for minister's pension, workman's compensation, group insurance, automobile mileage of 8¢ per mile, and expenses for attendance at conventions.

Responsibility for a \$500 unit of support for the Roger Burtners, serving as missionaries in <sup>Nigeria</sup> ~~Algeria~~, was undertaken by the Otterbein Home church. This was included in the 1967 budget. It was fully paid in 1967. In the early part of 1968 a substantial amount had been already contributed to a similar \$500 unit project for the year, which had been included in the 1968 budget.

### Changes in 1968

For several months discussion went on as to whether this church should be discontinued, and a change to chaplaincy made at Otterbein Home. But in November 1967 the Local Conference voted 10 to 9 to retain the church organization. Dr. W. K. Messmer, Miami Conference superintendent, presided at this meeting.

Meantime, years of service in the pastorate had been set by Ohio Miami Con-

ference as the basis for salary for each EUB pastor. As Rev. Charles W. Peckham had 13 years of service, his salary basis became \$6,625.

Because of the special circumstances of Otterbein Home church, this was out of reach for the church itself. Accordingly the Board of Trustees of the Home employed him, as of January 1, 1968, to work part time as co-ordinator for all Home programs. As pastor of the church he receives \$5,000 salary, and the Home pays him \$1,625 as co-ordinator. The Home also took over travel expense and workmen's compensation, which had been included in the church budget, and a proportionate part of the pension assessment.

Throughout the years the church has been assigned quotas for the various funds of the denomination. In some instances payment has been delayed because of inadequate contributions, but in the main the quotas have been met.

Otterbein Home is unique in that its membership is so largely made up of persons whose funds are very limited, and therefore their giving must be limited. But the numbers who pay tithes into the church treasury, and contribute to missionary and community projects over and above

their tithes, is a constant source of gratification to the church officials.

As long ago as December 1, 1919 there is reference in the minutes to a "self-denial" special fund. That year it amounted to \$196. As it was continued for several years, the total varied, but it was always substantial. It was sent to the Board of Foreign Missions.

### Mutual Aid

From October 6, 1914 through many years, the church paid the Home \$15 per year on the coal bill, usually in two installments of \$7.50 each. On October 6, 1914 also, the church voted to pay \$125 into the fund that was being established by the Home for renovating the Shaker meeting house (across from Marble Hall) to serve as a school. The old one-room Shaker school, which stood near where the swimming pool is today, had been condemned by the county authorities, and as there was no money for a new schoolhouse, the old meeting had to be made to "do".

Agreement between the Official Board and the Otterbein Home Trustees seems to have existed to the effect that the trustees would supplement church funds wherever needed for salary.

For instance, October 4, 1938 it is noted that the salary was to be \$800 of which the church would pay \$440 and the Home Trustees \$360. In addition to cash salary, the pastor received milk, meat, vegetables and Home grown fruits free of charge. Similar arrangement was carried along for many years.

Occasionally the church treasury was empty, but the Board of Trustees of the Home always came to the rescue with an appropriation. Then the tide would turn, and the church was able to lend money to the Home, to help carry it over the very difficult times when funds were extremely low and needs were great.

There is an entry as of June 1926 showing that the church Official Board had voted to loan E. E. Ullrich, treasurer of Otterbein Home, \$400 from the Symmes fund accumulation. (More about this fund later) A new note was made for \$1900 at 6%, dated June 19, 1926. This included \$1500 previously loaned, plus the current loan of \$400.

### The Parsonage

In the early days the church seems to have been responsible for the physical property of the chapel and parsonage, although the Board of Trustees of the Home



gave attention to these needs. Example: Supt. King reported to the Official Board on March 21, 1917 that the chapel in the brick building (New Bethany) needed repair, a pulpit platform, and chairs. At a congregational meeting this matter was considered and plans were made for the improvements to be made without drawing on funds that had accumulated for a new church building.

April 6, 1927 the treasurer reported that there was no money in the treasury and a deficit of \$50 existed. At this meeting, however, the pastor was instructed to select one person to serve with him as a committee to discover the cost of redecorating the parsonage. This was to be paid from the Symmes fund. In June that year the treasurer reported to quarterly conference that the pastor's salary and the benevolence quota had been paid in full. A bill for \$11 for decorating the parsonage was allowed, also a bill for \$12 for shrubbery on the parsonage property.

In May 1929 it was decided that two rooms of the parsonage should be repapered, and a Mr. Markee was to be asked to hang the paper free of charge.

## Responsibility for Parsonage

In 1935 the question of who was responsible for the parsonage came up for somewhat heated discussion in two or three meetings. Repairs were needed, and it was stated in the minutes of August 25: "As far as we can find out it is the property of the church. Rev. Deeever assumed responsibility for seeing it was done."

Again, September 1937, it was reported to the Official Board that the parsonage needed repairs. In October that year a committee was appointed to "find out who is responsible for repairing the parsonage, and whether or not there should be a local board of trustees."

On March 7, 1938, however, the minutes say that "Mr. Traylor (superintendent of the Home) stated that he thought he had made it perfectly clear that the Board of Trustees of Otterbein Home is the only Board of Trustees of the church." From that time on few references to repairs on the parsonage appear in the minutes.

However, a bill for repairs and decorating the parsonage was allowed at a meeting of the church board March 5, 1945, and in November 1947 there was a discus-



sion about buying a cabinet sink for the parsonage.

On December 6, 1954 Rev. Comrey was authorized to try to have the trouble located in the parsonage furnace, recently installed. The report of August 25, 1953 notes the purchase of this furnace and the fact that it was paid for from church funds. In August 1, 1955 a bill for floor covering for the parsonage kitchen was allowed.

In August 1962 the secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks to the Board of Trustees of Otterbein Home, for the remodeling and beautification of the parsonage, including wall-to-wall carpeting. This, however, was paid for by the Home.

### Building the Parsonage

While Supt. J. R. King was pastor of the church there was no need for a separate parsonage, since he and Mrs. King (who served as matron and accountant) had their own apartment. Rev. J.P. Hendrix and family lived in the Home for Missionaries' Children, later known as Rose Cottage, and also for a time in the Shaker meeting house which had been a school until the new building (now the Nursing Care Center) was erected.

The parsonage was built in 1925, just north of Bethany and across the road from Phillippi.

In minutes of the Board of Trustees of Otterbein Home, dated May 28-29, 1924 there is this item: "Dr. J. H. Dutton, superintendent of Miami Conference, had just come from the annual Sunday School convention of Miami Conference, held at Middletown, and reported a vote of the convention to raise \$12,000 in the next Christmas offering, with an appropriation of at least \$5,000 of the amount to construction of a parsonage."

June 20, 1924, however, the minutes state: "As the action of the Miami Conference bodies was in apparent conflict with plans already made by Rev. W. E. Stanley of St. Joseph conference, to gather money for a parsonage, the action being taken by the Sunday School convention without any knowledge of the plans of Rev. Stanley, the chairman and secretary of the executive committee were appointed to take up the matter with Mr. Stanley for any adjustment that might be made."

As of September 24, 1923, the Board of Trustees of the Home had made an agreement with Rev. W.E. Stanley "touching the solicitation of money for a memorial parsonage at the Home, the same to be occupi-

ed by the regular pastor, but to be at the disposal of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley at their option. Mr. Stanley had given much thought to the matter and had submitted two plans, one to gather \$4000 or \$5000 for the parsonage as a straight contribution to the Home; the other to enlarge the amount to a \$10,000 foundation, enlarging his own contribution thereto by \$1000 with the same, arrangement for pastoral residence, or his own residence, at his option, and the entire amount to carry annuity either to the original donors or to himself, said annuity, however, to cease in case he should occupy the same. The Committee decided practically upon the second plan, with the understanding that all donors should be apprised of the annuity feature, leaving the way open, however, for adoption of the first plan should that seem best."

The Stanley agreement seems to have been voided, because in a Trustees minutes of April 27, 1926 there is the statement that during the year a new parsonage had been erected and dedicated. The Miami Conference, through the Christmas offering of 1924 had supplied \$5000 of the total cost of \$5969.13. There is no mention of the source of the \$969.13 additional; presumably it came out of regular Home funds.

*no - called parsonage  
Used by School  
Dilgard 1934-36*

This house was used as a parsonage until Charles W. Peckham came as pastor in 1966. The Peckham family took up residence in a cottage formerly occupied by Dr. and Mrs. L.N.Main, on the west side of the main road. (Rt. 741)

After occupancy for several months by the family of Supt. Charles K. Dilgard, while a house was being built for them at the north end of the campus, an addition was made on the south side of the old parsonage. It is now (1968) occupied by the Dwight Williams family. Mr. Williams is assistant treasurer of the Home.

### Related Societies

From its beginnings the Otterbein Home church has fostered the growth of auxiliary societies. By August 1915 a Missionary Society had been formed with 21 members and five life members, the latter having brought their life certificates with them. On April 22, 1917 all but six women of the church belonged to the Women's Missionary Society and a large number of members of the Home also belonged to the WMA who were not members of this church, never having transferred from their home churches.

Over the years, the Women's Mission-



ary Society, later known as the Women's Society of World Service, has been very much a part of the local scene. It has contributed sums of money to the denominational missionary work that have amazed the national officers. The Otterbein Home W.S.W.S. is one of the strongest in the Ohio Miami Conference. Miss Mary McKenzie for 16 years treasurer of the Home, and now its Admissions Secretary, has been active in the "Branch" W.S.W.S., now known as the Ohio Miami Conference W.S.W.S. She was second vice president for several years and has served in other capacities. At this time (1967-68) Mrs. Charles (Arline) Peckham is serving as secretary of special projects for the Conference W.S.W.S.

There are at present two Circles of the Otterbein W.S.W.S. Circle I membership is composed chiefly of members of the Home, many of whom have been active in the churches where they formerly lived. Circle II is principally made up of employees of the Home who meet in the evening after work hours. Both circles follow programs outlined by the Conference W.S.W.S. Occasionally they have joint meetings, and sometimes invite the E.U.B. Men to attend special programs.

First mention in the church minutes of a men's organization was of a

"Minister's Brotherhood" to meet bi-weekly, the members to be permanent advisors to the Official Board. In 1948 the president of the Brotherhood reported that it was "flourishing." Both members and workers attended. Programs have been local in origin much of the time, but as of 1967 the E.U.B. Men and the W.S.W.S. have the same study outlines.

The E.U.B. Men have contributed to a variety of projects. Through the years they accumulated \$300 in a fund for a new church, but in 1961 they transferred this to Otterbein Home. It was used for refinishing and installing pews that had been given this church by Fairview E.U.B. church, Dayton, at the time that church was completely remodeled.

There are many references in reports made at Official Board and (successor) Council of Administration meetings, to Youth Fellowship, and before that to Christian Endeavor groups. When Home membership of children was at its peak, the Christian Endeavor was divided into several age groups which held separate meetings. In June 1924 the Otterbein Home Christian Endeavor carried home the grand banner from "the convention". Both of these organizations of young people contributed many times to church services, prayer



meetings and other program activities of the church. There was also an Otterbein Guild which flourished for a few years.

As long as children lived at Otterbein Home, a vacation Bible School was held each summer immediately after the regular school closing in June. Members of the administrative staff, Sunday School teachers and other workers, and some members of the Home, conducted it.

### Dream of New Church Building

Over the years the congregation dreamed of a new and separate church building. As long ago as 1916 the Board of Trustees of Otterbein Home appointed a special committee of Dr. W. R. Funk and Dr. J. M. Phillippi, original founders of the Home, and Dr. King, superintendent, to outline a plan of development for Otterbein Home. One of the buildings they included in their far-sighted plan was a church to be located in the general vicinity of where Phillippi building now stands. The dream persisted through the years and is referred to now and then in minutes of various meetings. The fact that E.U.B. Men had \$300 in a new church fund as late as 1961 indicates how long the possibility of building existed in minds of church members.

## Gifts of Pianos

Dec. 12, 1918 Supt. King reported to the Board of Trustees of the Home that four pianos had been received from the Williams Piano and Organ Co. One was placed in Good Samaritan, one in the Old People's Home (Bethany) and one in the reception room at the Children's Home (New Bethany.) and the artist grand in the chapel.

This artist grand is the piano now in second floor lounge of the Nursing Care Center. It was used in the past for prayer meetings and other programs conducted in the lounge. At present another piano, the property of a musician who came to the Home as a member several years ago, is the one regularly used, as the old one can be no longer kept in tune. (A picture of a piano almost exactly like this "artist grand" is shown in a book of reproductions of old advertisements. It is dated 1880)

The artist grand had been less than pleasing in tone for a long time, and resisted the best efforts of expert tuners, when several discussions about replacing it were held in Official Board meetings. Then in August 1953 there is a note in one of the reports that "the new piano in the chapel is not to be used for practice." (Children were taking music lessons.)

This "new" piano is still in use in the chapel. It was purchased by the Women's Auxiliary of Otterbein Home for \$1000 and presented to the Home. According to the recollection of persons who have lived here a long time, this piano, a very fine, expensive one, had been the gift to a young musician by her parents, but she died soon thereafter. The parents made it available to the Auxiliary for much less than they had paid for it originally.

From the first music had an important place in the services of the church, and several pianists and choir directors are mentioned in the early minutes. One of these in 1921 was Miss Darling, choir supervisor, who was then a teacher in Otterbein Home school. Miss Darling became Mrs. Ross Hill, and still retains a special interest in Otterbein Home by reason of the fact that her husband, Dr. Hill, has been Home physician for many years.

In 1944 choir robes were purchased. Material for collars was to be purchased and women of the Home were to make the collars. From time to time there is reference in the minutes to new robes being purchased, or old ones cleaned and repaired. In March 1956 new robes of spun rayon, wine color, with gold and white stoles were purchased. The robes cost \$11.95 each and the stoles \$2.15 each. These are still used.

## Other Gifts

Besides the pianos mentioned, other gifts have been made to the church which represent considerable investment in money.

Lectern, chairs and baptismal font were dedicated December 13, 1948. They were the gift of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hilgedick of Sullivan, Ind., in honor of Mrs. Hilgedick's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Christy of Linton, Ind. On this occasion Mr. and Mrs. Hilgedick announced that they would also give a pulpit and chair. This they did, and the dedication took place January 15, 1950.

White chancel cloths were dedicated October 3, 1954. They were given by the Senior Youth Fellowship. Green and purple paraments for the lectern and pulpit were purchased in November 1966 with a memorial gift of money from the family of Mrs. Clothilda Ditmyer, a member of the Home. She was the widow of Rev. R. B. Ditmyer.

Communion table and flower stands were given by the Auxiliary of Ohio East Conference, in memory of Jay M. Cogan, an early field secretary of the Home, and editor of the Otterbein Home News.



Brass cross and candlesticks were given by Mrs. Jessie Funkhouser of Dayton. The candlesticks are presently in use. A spring assembly which keeps the candles at even height, was given by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Robinson, members of the Home.

United States flag was presented to the Otterbein Home church in 1953 by the Daughters of America chapter of West Middletown, Ohio. The church purchased a Christian flag for display on the opposite side of the chancel. As of July 1963 reference is made to the fact that "we have received new flags" but there is nothing to indicate whether they were gifts or had been purchased by the church.

In 1954 Oak St. E.U.B. church, Dayton, gave the bulletin board still in use in the chapel.

On September 1, 1958 it was reported that new life-size figures of Mary and Joseph and two shepherds, for the Nativity scene erected each Christmas season, had cost \$368.50 plus transportation. Gifts of \$150 had been received. The treasurer was instructed to pay the balance.

New pulpit Bible was given in 1962 in memory of Mrs. Nessie Shively, by her husband, Laird Shively, and his niece, Mrs.

Nessie Shively Watson of Mifflinburg, Pa. Mr. and Mrs. Shively were members of the Home, both now deceased.

Organ was the gift in 1960 of the children of Mrs. Edith Hart, who had been in charge of the Home sewing room for many years; and of Dr. V. H. Allman, the Cole family, and the Women's Auxiliary. (Dr. Allman was superintendent of Otterbein Home at the time. Mr. and Mrs. Roger Cole have been co-managers of the laundry since 1952. The Auxiliary contribution represented money left in their treasury when the Midwest Homes Auxiliary was formed, and the Otterbein Home Auxiliary ceased operation.)

Pews presently in use (1968) were donated in 1961 when Fairview E.U.B. church Dayton, dismantled its sanctuary which was to be rebuilt. Otterbein Home E.U.B. Men contributed \$300 which had been accumulated in a building fund, to be used toward refinishing and installing the pews.

Cushions for part of the pews in the chapel were placed in 1964. A fund of \$500 left by the Women's Auxiliary was used to cover the cost.

Colored glass windows were given that same year (1961) by Trinity E.U.B. church Dayton. Until that time the windows had been of clear glass, with drapes. In 1946



the Women's Auxiliary had paid \$439 for replacement of old drapes, and in later years also contributed toward purchase of new ones as needed.

Lamps on the pulpit and lectern were given in 1961 by Mrs. Lena Rabuck, former matron of Bethany, now retired and a member of the Home. Silencers for communion cup racks were provided by Mr. and Mrs. Warren McMichael in 1961. Mr. McMichael is manager of the farm, and at that time Mrs. McMichael was matron. She is now (1968) manager of food services.

Chalice and 100 hymnals were purchased in January and May respectively, 1967, with a memorial fund given to the church by the family of Rev. John Oehlerking, a member of the Home. He had served as Montana E.U.B. conference superintendent for many years, and later as conference superintendent for Nebraska.

Pastor's study was completely done over in 1966. Bookshelves were built in by Rudolph Wernicke, a skilled craftsman, a member of Otterbein Home, as a personal contribution to the church. Painting was done by Don Ballou, father of Mrs. Charles Dilgard, who also donated his work. Carpet and materials for the bookshelves, were paid for from funds which had accumulated in the treasury of the Otterbein

## Home Alumni Association.

Planters at the entrance to Phillippi building, where the chapel is located, were given by friends of Rev. Ella Hamilton, a member of the Home, who died in August 1966. She was for 39 years church secretary of Euclid Av. E.U.B. church, Dayton.

In January 1968 Mrs. Charlotte Alvis, director of nursing, gave a movie projector to the Nursing Care Center, as a memorial to her husband. Another one was purchased for use in the chapel, with a combination of memorial gifts of money which had been given in honor of deceased members: Mrs. Lottie Deardorff, Mrs. Edna Hoover and Mrs. Ida Wright; as well as friends of the Home who had lived elsewhere: Mrs. Flora Miller, Mrs. Bertha Abbey and Mrs. Bertha Shilling. Wall screen for use for each of these projectors, was given by the Friendship Class of Dayton First E.U.B. church.

Late in 1967 work was begun on transforming a Sunday School room just off the chapel, into a Home library. Rudolph Wernicke lowered the ceiling, paneled the walls and constructed book shelves. Don Ballou did the staining and varnishing. New lighting was provided.

Among books available are 60 volumes

printed in large type, the gift of a Sunday School class of Ashland First E.U.B. church. A copy of the Readers' Digest comes each month, printed in large type, for use of those who have difficulty in reading. This subscription of \$48 was paid for from a gift of \$75 from Ashton, Ill., E.U.B. church. The remainder will be used for more books.

### Counting the Members

It is difficult to arrive at any clear idea of the number of members of the church in any given period since its organization. Some pastors seem to have included all who attended Sunday School and church, in their reports. At times the roll was revised and names of those no longer living here were removed "with certificate". One pastor reported 101 resident and 149 non-resident members as of 1949. Whether the non-resident list included those whose names had been placed on an "associate" list some years previously, is not clear. At one time it had been voted to remove the names of inactive (usually persons who had moved away) members, but who had not requested an "associate" status. This practice, generally followed in the denomination was later disapproved by General Conference and has been discontinued.

From 24 members at the time of its organization in 1914, the church membership grew to as high as 272 reported in 1926. This must have included children, as there were about 175 children here at the time. In 1938, however, the report showed only 97 persons over 15 years of age. This report was necessary in order to claim this church's portion of the Symmes fund. In 1948 the pastor reported that there was an average attendance of 186 at Sunday School, and "church attendance ran higher."

In 1951-52 the membership was reported as 144. It would seem that this represented actual membership, rather than both membership and attendance. Here at Otterbein Home we have numerous regular attendants who never have transferred to this church from their former home churches.

The roll was revised in 1966, the first time since the children had left in 1963. As many of them had belonged to this church, and many had grown up and left the Home even before 1963, an earnest effort was made to contact all non-residents. Responses indicated that some had joined other churches without requesting letters from this church. In some cases no addresses could be discovered. By the time



revision was completed, there appeared to be a drastic drop in membership, but the factors involved made it seem greater than was actually the case. The present roll (1967) represents a true list of present members. It shows 123.

Peak membership reported was in 1961, 207 members, but of these 32 were non-resident. This was while children were still here.

### Assistant Pastor

Rev. and Mrs. Donald E. Carper came to Otterbein Home in September 1951. Rev. Carper was a student at United Theological Seminary. He was the first associate pastor of this church. He also served as youth director and part of the time as Sunday School superintendent. Mrs. Carper directed a youth choir and gave music lessons. While they were here Rev. Carper wrote a history of Otterbein Home as his thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a degree of Bachelor of Divinity. The Carpers returned to Kansas in late 1953.

Church records seem to indicate that Rev. Carper was the only associate pastor ever employed by the church. At intervals young men from United Theological Seminary have been hired by the Otterbein Home Board



of Trustees to assist with youth work on campus, and they have taken an interest in the church, but they were responsible to the Home rather than the church.

One of these was Rev. Gerald Witt who served from June 1959 to July 1960. He was youth director of the church for several months, but resigned this post in May 1960. Mrs. Witt is a registered nurse, and worked in our hospital (now the Nursing Care Center) following the birth of their twin sons about a month after they came.

### Miscellany

Christmas offering for the Otterbein Home, and more recently for Midwest Homes, has been taken in this church ever since the Christmas offering was established. It has reached substantial amounts at times. Members of the Home contribute in a spirit of thankfulness for the care they receive.

April 22, 1955 first mention is made in the minutes as to the recommendation that a Pastor-Parish Committee be formed. Almost a year later, March 19, 1956, the Council of Administration still seemed reluctant to discuss such a committee, but at the urging of the conference superintendent, it was set up. It included the board of stewards, financial secretary,

church treasurer, and the treasurers of all departments. The committee personnel is on a different basis now. It was to be "tried" for one year. In September of that year it was decided that the pastor should appoint one lay member. Such a committee has been active ever since.

In January 1947 there was discussion as to the need of a loud speaker for the hospital(which was above the chapel), and hearing aids for the church. These were installed, apparently, because November 7, 1948 a new microphone was purchased for \$22.20. August 25, 1953 the treasurer was instructed to pay for some loud speakers in the chapel. In 1955 the inter-com system was extended to the residence halls, and a gift of \$300 to the church was applied to the total cost of \$600. The present hearing aids were installed at the expense of the Home, in 1965. The system in the chapel has been improved so that sound is uniform throughout the room.

There was no hesitation in early days about including religious instruction with other subjects in the school. At a quarterly conference in June 1924 the conference superintendent was asked to appoint a committee on Religious Education to recommend a course of study in Otterbein Home high school. This recommendation was followed and the course became a regular part of

the school curriculum.

Revival services have been held regularly each year in the Otterbein Home church. The first one was planned at a meeting January 1, 1916. Preachers were called in from other churches, and some professional revivalists were employed.

When children left Otterbein Home in 1963, only one Sunday School class remained. This was made up of adults. Children of workers who lived on campus were taken by their parents to Sunday Schools in nearby churches during 1963-1965. The adult class was taught by the lecture method, by members of the Home, and also frequently by guest teachers who came from United Theological Seminary, denominational headquarters in Dayton, and on occasion from other churches in the area.

In October 1966, however, it was decided to revive the Sunday School here, as the population of workers' children had increased. Several classes were organized according to age groups for the youth. Adult classes were conducted in the Council Room, on second floor of Phillippi, in New Bethany, and the Nursing Care Center.

Sunday evening services were discontinued for a time, but were resumed in

October 1962, and have been held regularly ever since.

The name Official Board was changed to Council of Administration in December 1946, in accordance with the Discipline. The title was changed again in December 1963, and the policy-making body is known in each individual church as the Local Conference.

### Symmes Fund

First mention of the Symmes fund in minutes of the Official Board, is July 16, 1920, when note was made that \$74.40 had been received by Otterbein Home church from the fund. The amount varied over the years from \$108.15 to \$22.47 in 1967. It was evidently kept much of the time as a reserve fund, and only drawn upon when there was some special need. For several years, about the time of World War I, the church owned a government bond valued at \$830 which may have been purchased with Symmes fund accumulations. There are several references to it being added to the church building fund.

In the front of the book containing minutes beginning in 1938, there is a sample form on which claim must be made for the fund, and a note in what appears to be the handwriting of Audrey G.



Whitaker, secretary of the Official Board, although it is not signed. "We have been told that our church has missed at least one payment and perhaps more than one, because no one knew about the ministerial fund. This has been due to new persons being in charge, or an oversight.

"In order that this might not happen again, we suggested that this be written up in such a way that future officials would know something about it. We were directed to paste a sample form in front of the new secretary's book. These forms are purchased at the Western Star office. The ministers' notice is found in the Western Star each year. Watch for the notice and inquire from officials in Lebanon concerning the fund.

"Otterbein Home church is in Twp. 4 Range 3. We have been told that our line ends approximately at Green Tree road. An agent is elected at a regular church service preceeding the final date, to hand in the approved list of members. The check for this money which the church receives, is made out in the name of this agent, and is sent to this person by mail at a later date. The secretary prepares the list from the pastor's record."

Printed notice: (Trustees) will meet



--to distribute the annual interest on moneys from the sale of Section 29 of said township, to all religious societies then and there represented by an agent. \* \* \* presenting a list of church members age 15 years or over, and actual residents of the township on that day."

The Symmes fund is unique among funds for the support of religious organizations

John Cleves Symmes was 45 when the land boom of 1787 was at its height. He was born July 21, 1742 at Riverhead, Long Island, but moved to New Jersey and became a member of congress, chief justice of the state, and one of three judges of the Northwest Territory. He died at Cincinnati January 26, 1814.

Judge Symmes contracted with congress for one million acres in Ohio, but found that there were only 600,000 acres between the Great and Little Miami rivers northward from the Ohio river, in what was called the Virginia Military range, the north boundary being a short distance above where the Warren county fairgrounds now stand. The area included Lebanon, South Lebanon, Union Village (which became Otterbein Home) in Warren county, and Hamilton, Monroe and Bethany in Butler county.

Symmes' patent was for 311,682 acres, but he finally paid for only 248,540 acres. His original deed was signed by George Washington. The price of the 311,682 acres was 66-2/3 cents per acre, but actual payment was made for the land around Cincinnati, Hamilton and Lebanon at 17 cents per acre. Symmes had the land surveyed, but compasses varied so the lines were not exact.

It was specified in the sale that Section 29 of every township of six square miles be reserved for support of religion, with Section 16 reserved for support of education. It was customary, in those days for land to be set aside for use of ministers of the gospel. There were three "ministerial sections" in Warren county. United Brethren churches were mentioned among those benefitting by this arrangement.

It is from one of these "ministerial sections" that the Otterbein Home church derives some income each year. As land was sold, proceeds were invested, with the income allocated to churches within the township. At first there were few churches, and each received a fairly large sum, but as more churches were organized, the division among them caused each apportionment to become smaller.

Unfortunately Judge Symmes did not seem to realize that he had paid for only 248,540 of the 311,682 acres in his patent. He sold off tracts for which he could not give good deeds. Many persons paid him in full for such lands. After some years an Act of Congress secured to all persons the lands they claimed, at \$2.00 per acre. There were numerous cases in which the owner paid twice for his land before title could be cleared.

## OTTERBEIN HOME PASTORS

Name	Year or years when appointed
J. R. King	1914-15-16-17-18-19
J. P. Hendrix	1920-21-22
C. W. Snyder	1923-24-25-26-27-28-29
W. I. Comfort	1930-31-32
W. O. Bollinger	1933 (May till Conference)
* H. H. Miller	1933
P.O. Deeever	1934-35
F. G. Senger	1936
Arthur Peden	1937
E. C. Petry	1938
A. E. Landis	1939-1940
Lyal Anderson	1941-42-43
*H.H. Miller	(Served for a few weeks and resigned. He had served in 1933 also)
Delmont Gordy	1944-45-46
Omar Wetherell	1947 (Resignation, Gordy)
E. S. Comrey	1947-48-49-50-51-52-53-54
Paul Chastain	1955-56
Ira Clark	1957-58-59-60
Myron Ketron	1961
Robert Eschbach	1962-63-64-65
Charles W. Peckham	1966-67

List furnished by Conference Superintendent Dr. W.K. Messmer, compiled by Owen Delp.

CHURCH DIRECTORY AND  
BUDGET 1968

LOCAL CONFERENCE: Chairman, Chas. W. Peckham; vice-chairman, Charles K. Dilgard; Secretary, Miss Florence Edwards; Treasurer, Dwight Williams; Elder, Rev. Fred Engle; Lay member to Annual Conference, Mrs. Lena Rabuck; Financial Secretary, Mrs. Opha W. Ireland; Lay Leader, Mrs. Laura Lowden; Assistant Lay Leader, Mrs. Amy Yenner; Representative of Trustees, C. K. Dilgard; Representative to Otterbein College, David Green; Chairman, Christian Education, Mrs. Arline Peckham; Chairman Social Concerns, Mrs. Flossie Daniel.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH WORK COUNCIL: Director, Mrs. Phyllis Dilgard; Teachers, Chas. Dilgard, Warren McMichael, Phyllis Dilgard, Margaret Williams, Arline Peckham.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR SERVICE MEN AND COLLEGE STUDENTS: Chairman, Mrs. Vernita Green; Mrs. Edith Lidster, Miss Nelda Cameron, Edward Delker, Mrs. Pearl Floyd, Mrs. Alfreda Jenkins.

ADULT WORK COUNCIL: Director, Mrs. Ruth McMichael; Mrs. Margaret Quinley, Mrs. Bessie Dunkle, Mrs. Gilda Carter, Lester Hiestand, Mrs. Amy Yenner, Miss Florence Clippinger, Robert Ragle, Dwight Williams, Mrs. Marie



McKenzie, Mrs. Agnes Myers, Mrs. Lena Rabuck.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS BASKETS: Chairman, Mrs. Ruth McMichael; Miss Clara Sippel, Mrs. Eleanor Shaferly, Mrs. Pearl Hiestand, Frank Robinson, Lester Hiestand, Rudolph Wernicke.

COMMISSION ON WORSHIP AND PREACHING: Chairman, Mack Campbell; secretary, Mrs. Grace Cole; ushers, chairman, Fred Ahlfeld, Howard Irick, Edward Delker, Dwight Williams, Homer Scott, Robert Ragle, Roger Cole. Chairman acolytes: Dwight Williams  
Communion Stewards: Chairman, Mrs. Daisy King; Mrs. Esther Robinson, Mrs. Lena Rabuck, Miss Clara Sippel.

Flower Committee: Chairman, Miss Florence Clippinger, Mrs. Grace Cole, Mrs. Celine Jessmer, Mrs. Nora Borck.

Music Committee: Chairman, Mrs. Mabel Sheneman; Mrs. Gilda Carter, Mrs. Arline Peckham, Mrs. Odessa Campbell.

COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM AND MISSION: Chairman, C.K. Dilgard; secretary, Miss Hazel Shidaker; Mrs. Robert Ragle, Mrs. Thomas Bright, Mrs. Eleanor Shaferly, Mrs. Howard Irick.

PASTOR-PARISH COMMITTEE: Chairman, Warren McMichael; secretary, Miss Florence Clippinger; lay member to annual conference, Mrs. Lena Rabuck; member at large, Miss Mary McKenzie; pastor's appointee, Charles K. Dilgard.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: Chairman, Dwight Williams; secretary, Roger Cole; financial secretary, Mrs. Opha Ireland; church treasurer, Dwight Williams; assistant church treasurer, Warren McMichael; WSWs treasurer, Miss Florence Clippinger; E.U.B. Men treasurer; members at large, Mrs. Margaret Quinley, E. F. Crites, Mrs. Agnes Myers.

Special Funds Committee: Chairman, C. K. Dilgard; Homer Scott, D. Williams

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: Chairman, Miss Mary McKenzie; secretary, Mrs. Mabel Sheneman; members at large, Mrs. Ruth McMichael, Mrs. Esther Robinson, Mrs. Florence Morris, Mrs. Daisy King.

MEMBERS AT LARGE OF LOCAL CONFERENCE: Homer Scott, Robert Roy, Mrs. Elsie Fravel, Thomas Bright.

COMMITTEE ON MEMORIALS: Chairman, Mrs. Opha Ireland; Miss Mary McKenzie, Howard Irick, Miss Florence Clippinger, Charles K. Dilgard.

WORKERS' FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Williams; vice president, Mrs. Vernita Green; secretary, Mrs. Alfreda Jenkins; treasurer, Roger Cole.

MEMBERS' FELLOWSHIP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President, Mrs. Gilda Carter; vice president, Mrs. Mabel Sheneman; secretary, Mrs. Lena Rabuck; treasurer, Mrs. Margaret Quinley.

EUB MEN'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President, Lester Hiestand; vice president, Robert Roy; secretary, Edward Delker; treasurer, Homer Scott

WSWS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: President, Mrs. Lena Rabuck; vice president, Mrs. Agnes Myers; secretary, Mrs. Mabel Sheneman; treasurer, Miss Florence Clippinger. Secretary of Spiritual Life, Miss Florence Edwards; secretary of social concerns, Mrs. Flossie Daniel; secretary of World Outreach, Mrs. Margaret Quinley.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES: Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.; Morning Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.; Evening Worship Service, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Studies: Phillippi, 1:00 p.m. Nursing Care Center, 2:30 p.m. New Bethany, 7:30 p.m.

Local Conference; First Monday of January, April, July, October. 7:15 p.m.

Women's Society of World Service: Circle I, second Monday of each month, 2:00 p.m. Circle II, second Tuesday of each month, 7:15 p.m.

E.U.B. Men: Fourth Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

Children's and Youth Work Council: First Monday, February, May, August, November, 7:15 p.m.

Adult Work Council: First Tuesday, February, May, August, November, 7:15 p.m.

Workers' Fellowship: Third Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m.

Members' Fellowship: Third Tuesday of each month, 2:00 p.m.

### BUDGET FOR 1968

#### Pastoral Ministry

Salary	\$5,000.00
Pension	720.00
Group Insurance	217.00
Convention Expense	100.00
Total	<u>\$6,037.00</u>

#### Operational Budget

Supplies (Bulletins, etc)	400.00
Janitor	180.00
Contingent flower fund	25.00
Camps and Rallies	50.00
Literature (Sunday School, Ch. & Home, Miami Messenger	300.00
	<u>\$ 955.00</u>

Outreach Budget

Christian Service Fund	\$1,944.00
Camp Miami Improvement	83.00
Special Missions	700.00
Total	<u>\$2,727.00</u>

GRAND TOTAL \$9,719.00

Amount needed monthly to meet budget \$809.91

Amount needed weekly 186.90

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

January, April, July, October,  
Church and Home, first Sunday.

January, World Service Day; March,  
One Great Hour of Sharing; April, College  
Day; June, Missions Day; October, E.U.B.  
Men's Day; November, American Bible Soc-  
iety; December, Midwest Homes.

## UNITED APPEAL:

April, Salvation Army, 40%, heart  
fund, 20%; cancer fund, 20%; crippled  
children's fund, 20%.

November: Baskets for needy families,  
80%; service men, 10%; March of Dimes, 10%.



## MEMORIAL GIFTS TO THE OTTERBEIN HOME

1966	In Memory of	Amount
	George Hamilton (brother of Miss Ella Hamilton)	\$ 46.00
	Isa Barnhouse (member)	49.00
	Bessie Schaeffer (member)	147.00
	Mrs. Ted Schultz's mother	50.00
	Lulu Williamson (member)	5.00
	Alta Ates (member)	5.00
	Ella Hamilton (member)	179.50
	Maude Bushnell (member)	111.00
	Rev. John Oehlerking (member) (used for hymn- als and chalice	263.00
	Clothilda Ditmyer (used for paraments)	100.00
1967	Edna Hoover (member)	15.00
	Kate Penick (member)	100.00
	Ralph Alvis	40.00
	Mrs. M. Byrd	25.00
	Mrs. Mary Ebersole	20.00





